



## Los Angeles County Regional Park And Open Space District

Administrative Offices: 510 S. Vermont Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90020-1975. (213) 738-2981. <http://openspacedistrict.lacounty.info>

October 21, 2014

The Honorable Board of Directors  
County of Los Angeles  
Regional Park and Open Space District  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Directors:

**AMEND THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY'S PROJECT LIST PURSUANT TO SECTION (3), SUBSECTION (d) OF THE SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS PROPOSITION OF 1996, ALLOCATE SPECIFIED EXCESS FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE THIRD SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT TO THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY, AND AUTHORIZE AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION OF A GRANT TO THE MOUNTAIN RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FOR THE TOPANGA CANYON WATERSHED ACQUISITION PROJECT (THIRD DISTRICT)  
(3 VOTES)**

### **SUBJECT**

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate an amount not to exceed \$1,250,000 in Specified Excess Funds, available to the Third Supervisorial District, to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to acquire land in Topanga Canyon.

### **IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:**

1. Find the proposed Topanga Canyon Watershed Acquisition Project categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons stated herein and the reasons reflected in the record of the project.
2. Amend the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's project list, most recently amended on July 29, 2014, to add two parcels of land known as the Steers Property.
3. Allocate an amount not to exceed \$1,250,000 in Specified Excess Funds, available to the Third Supervisorial District, to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a grant to the Mountains

Recreation and Conservation Authority for the proposed Topanga Canyon Watershed Acquisition Project.

4. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award a grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, after the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy assigns the right to apply to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority and when applicable conditions have been met, including, but not limited to, clearance from the Department of Regional Planning, and to administer the grant as of the date of this action and pursuant to the procedures in the Procedural Guide for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects; otherwise, funds shall remain in the Excess Funds account.

### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Approval of the recommended actions will add two parcels of land, known as the Steers Property, to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's (SMMC) project list and allocate an amount not to exceed \$1,250,000 in Specified Excess Funds, available to the Third Supervisorial District, pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition), to SMMC for a grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for the proposed Topanga Canyon Watershed Acquisition Project (Project).

The proposed acquisition Project consists of the acquisition of two parcels, known as the Steers Property, which consists of approximately 37 acres of land and is located in the Santa Maria and Garapito subwatersheds of Topanga Canyon in the unincorporated Los Angeles County area of the Third Supervisorial District (Attachment I), for the future development of the proposed Santa Maria Canyon Trail. The estimated total project cost is \$1,250,000.

SMMC, which is the designated recipient of Specified Excess Funds for mountains, canyons, and foothills projects under the 1996 Proposition, will assign its right to apply for the funds to MRCA.

It is also recommended that the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Director), acting in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, be authorized to award a grant after SMMC assigns the right to apply for the funds to MRCA, and when applicable conditions have been met, including, but not limited to, grantee qualifications, consistency between the project and requirements of the 1996 Proposition, clearance from the Department of Regional Planning (DRP), as well as grantee agreement with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for the project. It is further recommended that the Director be authorized to administer the grant under procedures previously approved by the Board.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The proposed recommendations further the Board-approved County Strategic Plan Goal of Operational Effectiveness/Fiscal Sustainability (Goal 1) by creating additional publicly-owned open space in the Third Supervisorial District.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

Sufficient appropriation for the grant, not to exceed \$1,250,000, is budgeted in the Third Supervisorial District's portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District's (RPOSD) Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

## **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

The 1996 Proposition requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 have encumbered all such funds before they may receive grants of Excess Funds. SMMC and MRCA each meet this requirement.

The 1996 Proposition requires that funds provided to SMMC be expended “solely for projects approved by the Board, pursuant to such criteria as the Board may, in its discretion, adopt,” provided that those projects are identified in SMMC’s annual work program transmitted to the Governor and State Legislature and as may be amended from time to time, after noticed public hearings held in November of 2003 and August of 2004.

The 1996 Proposition further provides that the Board may disapprove a project within the boundaries of a city only upon a finding that the acquisition or improvement may impact access to or use of a site identified or proposed for present or future sanitary landfill purposes. In addition, the Board previously has adopted procedural requirements requiring a review of proposed SMMC projects relative to their impact on existing or proposed highways, and their consistency with General or Area Plans.

The proposed acquisition project meets the procedural requirements of the 1996 Proposition and has been reviewed in accordance with SMMC’s revised Procedural Guide, adopted by the Board on June 17, 1997. The Department of Public Works (DPW) has found that the proposed acquisition of the property would not involve, nor affect, any existing or potential landfill sites or accesses thereto (Attachment II). After reviewing the proposed acquisitions relative to any planned or existing County roads or highways, DPW had the following comments:

- Assessor Parcel No. 4434-001-004 is in the City of Los Angeles; therefore, no County highways are directly impacted. The County Highway Plan shows that Mulholland Drive, adjacent to the above property, is designated as a proposed parkway to be opened to variable widths (80 feet minimum). We also recommend any existing slope and drainage easements within the property, if any, should remain to the satisfaction of the City of Los Angeles.
- Assessor Parcel No. 4434-008-007 does not impact County highways or local streets.

The 1996 Proposition provides a method for determining, each fiscal year, the amount of funds available in the following fiscal year to fund capital improvement projects in addition to the amounts specifically identified for projects in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996. The recommended acquisitions would be funded from the Excess Funds available to the Third Supervisorial District for specified projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director would be authorized to award a grant when all applicable conditions have been met.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

All public agency projects funded by RPOSD are required to comply with CEQA as a condition of the grant. The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for the project. MRCA is the lead agency for proposed Project.

The proposed Project is categorically exempt from CEQA according to Section 15325 (f) of the State

CEQA Guidelines and Class 25 of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the proposed Project consists of acquisition of land for the preservation of open space or lands for park purposes.

### **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

A Grant Project Agreement will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director and pursuant to the SMMC's Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 1997 and used since then for the administration of similar grant projects. Prior to execution, the Grant Project Agreement will be reviewed and approved as to form by County Counsel.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

Approval of these recommendations will authorize the Director to award a grant to the MRCA for the acquisition of the Steers Property, which is approximately 37 acres and located in upper Topanga Canyon in the Third Supervisorial District. The Project will have no impact on any other RPOSD-funded projects.

### **CONCLUSION**

Please return one adopted copy of this Board letter to the Chief Executive Office, Facilities and Asset Management Division, and one to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russ Guiney", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

RUSS GUINEY

Director

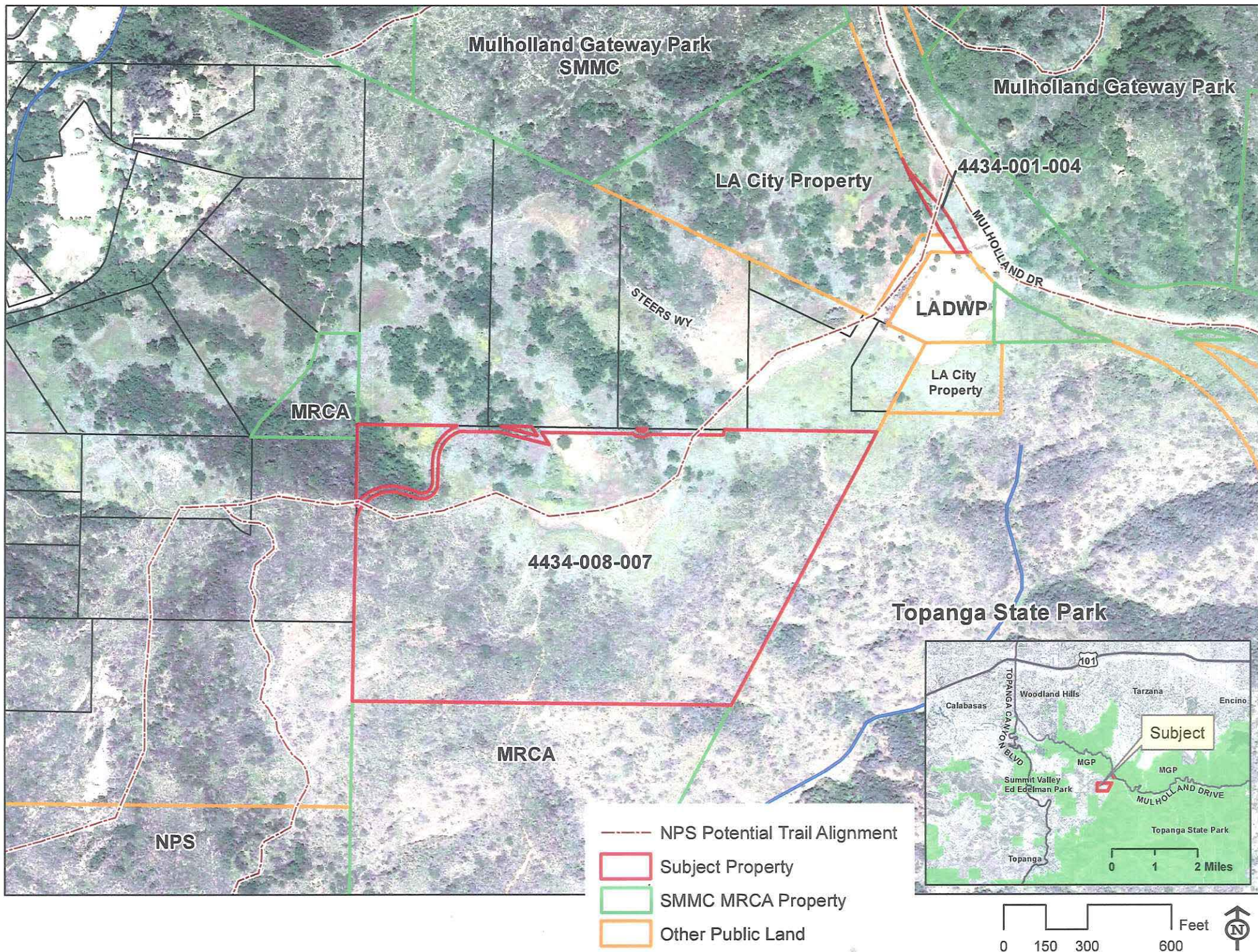
RG:JB:WO:aj

Enclosures

c: Chief Executive Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

# Attachment I







## Attachment II



GAIL FARBER, Director

REG PK & OPEN SPACE DIST  
RECEIVED  
**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE  
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331  
Telephone: (626) 458-5100  
<http://dpw.lacounty.gov>

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:  
P.O. BOX 1460  
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

August 28, 2014

IN REPLY PLEASE  
REFER TO FILE: LD-4

TO: Jane I. Beesley, District Administrator  
Department of Parks and Recreation

FROM: Anthony E. Nyivih   
Land Development Division  
Department of Public Works

**SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY'S REQUEST  
FOR NEW ACQUISITION PROJECTS IN THE SANTA MARIA AND GARAPITO  
SUBWATERSHEDS OF TOPANGA CANYON, ADJACENT TO THE CITY OF  
LOS ANGELES' MULHOLLAND DRIVE AREA**

As requested, we reviewed the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's list of proposed acquisition projects in the Santa Maria and Garapito subwatersheds of Topanga Canyon, adjacent to the City of Los Angeles' Mulholland Drive area, as it relates to construction of any highway depicted on the County of Los Angeles Highway Plan and impacts to the Solid Waste Management System in the County of Los Angeles. The following are our comments:

1. Assessor Parcel No. 4434-001-004 is in the City of Los Angeles; therefore, no County highways are directly impacted. If you have questions regarding the City's requirements, you may contact Mr. Tony Munoz of the City of Los Angeles' Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering (West Los Angeles District), at (310) 575-8530. The County Highway Plan shows that Mulholland Drive, adjacent to the above property, is designated as a proposed parkway to be opened to variable widths (80 feet minimum). We also recommend any existing slope and drainage easements within the property, if any, should remain to the satisfaction of the City of Los Angeles.
2. Assessor Parcel No. 4434-008-007 does not impact County highways or local streets.
3. The proposed acquisition would not involve nor affect any existing or potential landfill sites or access thereto.



Jane I. Beesley  
August 28, 2014  
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If you have any questions on highway and road impacts, please contact Steve Burger of Public Works' Land Development Division at (626) 458-4943 or [sburger@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto:sburger@dpw.lacounty.gov). For Solid Waste Management System questions, please contact Pat Proano of Public Works' Environmental Programs Division at (626) 458-3500 or [pproano@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto:pproano@dpw.lacounty.gov).

HW:tb

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cc: Department of Parks and Recreation (Agie Jordan)